

SDPZ VISTA Outreach Associate

On June 6, 2016, San Diego Promise Zone (SDPZ) became one of 22 federally designated Promise Zones in the United States and one of only four in California. SDPZ covers a 6.4-square-mile targeted area that spans Barrio Logan, Logan Heights, Encanto, Southeastern and parts of Downtown (East Village). It's home to some of City's most culturally rich and ethnically diverse neighborhoods but also some of the City's most disadvantaged and underserved communities.

Through this federal place-based initiative, the City's Economic Development Department unites federal government partners with local private- and public-sector organizations to streamline resources across agencies, deliver comprehensive support, accelerate SDPZ revitalization and improve the quality of life for more than 85,000 residents. The City works in partnership with AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) to advance the goals of the initiative.

The San Diego Promise Zone's goal is to alleviate poverty in some of the city's most historically underserved communities through a collaborative framework that unites organizations to work on shared goals. SDPZ aims to transform these communities in San Diego by 1) improving educational opportunities; 2) creating a priority of safety; 3) increasing economic activities; 4) creating jobs; 5) increasing access to affordable housing; and 6) increasing access to healthcare and healthy foods. The effort's overarching goal is to ensure that everyone has equitable access to opportunities, and that birthplace does not determine his or her destiny. With the City of San Diego serving as the lead organization, SDPZ has an operations team that convenes and coordinates meetings and activities with more than 50 partners, including nonprofits, community organizations, government agencies, and businesses, while actively engaging residents.

Objective of the Assignment:

The primary objectives are to assist with the planning, coordination and implementation of SDPZ community engagement and outreach activities, such as business walks, neighborhood tours and events in the SDPZ; and to document processes for planning such events. Associate will also build and strengthen relationships with nonprofit Partners, community-based organizations, small businesses and residents by representing SDPZ at community meetings and events and attending Partner meetings and their activities in the SDPZ.

Member Activities:

1. Lead or assist with the planning, management and coordination of events, as needed for each of the Working Groups with the support of the SDPZ team
2. Support methods of data collection and evaluation for outreach events and activities, in collaboration with SDPZ data and evaluation plans
3. Establish relationships with SDPZ Partners and Promise Zone Coordinator to ensure consistent communication and aligned messaging to community groups, Partners, residents and other stakeholders
4. Attend SDPZ-related community meetings and events; increase community awareness about the SDPZ initiative
5. Research and be up-to-date on community and Partner events as opportunities to attend, build relationships, increasing SDPZ visibility and support community leadership
6. Support the development of the SDPZ annual report by taking photos, collecting anecdotes about community meetings, events and residents
7. Provide support to six Working Groups through tasks, such as meeting convening, reserving space, creating agendas and recording meeting notes. Participate in the planning of All-Partner Meetings.

To complete the activities above, it is preferred that the VISTA Outreach Associate have the following skills/qualifications:

- Undergraduate degree in Sociology, Psychology, Communications, Journalism, Public Relations, English, Humanities, or related fields, plus one year of work experience. Four years of relevant experience can be substituted for undergraduate degree.
- Experience with event planning or project management
- Experience coordinating or participating in grassroots and small/mid-sized outreach events
- Excellent communication, presentation and public speaking skills
- Strong leadership abilities and interest in serving as a mentor to other members
- Comfort communicating with people from the full socioeconomic and cultural spectrum, including different levels of staff, from volunteers to executive-level staff
- Ability to develop and maintain positive working relationships with multiple stakeholders
- Must be deadline-oriented, highly organized, able to multitask and handle various projects and responsibilities
- Bilingual in Spanish/English a plus
- Availability during regular business hours, plus occasional nights and weekends

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) members bring passion and perseverance where the need is greatest: to organizations that help eradicate poverty. AmeriCorps VISTA members serve as a catalyst for change, living and working alongside community members to meet our nation's most pressing challenges and advance local solutions. **The AmeriCorps VISTA assignments are for a term of one year beginning in November 2019. Participants must be at least 21 years of age, eligible to work in the U.S., and will receive a bi-weekly living allowance of \$829.36, relocation allowance, end-of-service stipend or education award, health coverage, training, and childcare assistance if eligible.** More information about AmeriCorps VISTA service is available at <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/login.do>

Benefits:

- Professional Development Training
- Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE): AmeriCorps VISTA is the only AmeriCorps program where you can earn federal non-competitive eligibility, giving you an edge in the federal hiring process.
- End of Service Award: Choose between a Segal Education Award (valued at approximately \$6,000) to pay for a range of education expenses or a \$1,800 cash stipend.

***Do not email your resume. Applications must be received through the AmeriCorps portal. To apply, go to: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=91396&fromSearch=true>

Please email asouthard@sandiego.gov with questions.